

Docket No.: 2001 P 13459 US
App. No.: 09/917,373

established for claim 1. Claims 2-3 and 10-12 are believed allowable due to their dependence upon an allowable base claim.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Patent Office rejected claims 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,902,120 by Weyer ("Weyer").

The Patent Office rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,902,120 by Weyer ("Weyer") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,245 by Taenzer et al. ("Taenzer").

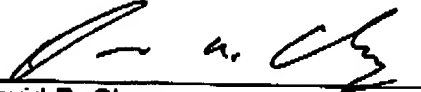
Applicant respectfully traverses each rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103. It is contended that all of the claims rejected under this section depend on independent claim 1 which is non-anticipatory and non-obvious based on the rationale above. Thus, dependent claims 4-9 which depends on independent claim 1 should be allowed.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are allowable, and it is respectfully requested that the entire application now be passed to formal allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

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